26th November 1928]

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when this will be settled and how long it has been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" This question has been under the consideration of the Government since the report of the Principal of the School of Indian Medicine was received. I think orders will be passed soon. I am not able to say exactly when it will be done."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when the report of the Principal was received ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The report reached us about three or four months ago."

Provision of more accommodation in the Mental Hospitals at Waltair, Madras and Calicut.

* 636 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to provide more accommodation in the three Mental Hospitals at Waltair, Madras and Calicut respectively and, if so, to what extent and at what cost ;

(*b*) the progress made in the reorganization of the said hospitals so as to convert them into hospitals for scientific treatment of mental disorders ;

(*c*) the arrangements made for the separation of the acute, chronic, epileptic and recovering cases in these hospitals and the provision of padded cells for violent cases ;

(*d*) the reasons why no progress has been made in providing the hospital at Madras with an improved drainage system though its investigation was sanctioned so long ago as 1925 ;

(*e*) the daily average strength of European and Indian patients, the number of European and Indian patients for whom there is provision and the highest number of European and Indian patients accommodated on any one day respectively in the Madras Mental Hospital ; and

(*f*) why provision is made in the Madras hospital at 60 square feet per European patient as against 45 or 50 square feet for Indian patients ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have sanctioned as the first instalment of a scheme for improving and extending the accommodation in the Madras Mental Hospital the construction of a new enclosure for 100 female patients at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,13,400. The work has been started. Additional buildings to accommodate 30 patients have been sanctioned for the Calicut Mental Hospital at an approximate cost of Rs. 51,075. Proposals for further improvements and additions to this institution and for the extension of the Waltair Mental Hospital are under consideration.

(*b*) The nursing staff of the Mental Hospitals has been reorganized. The reorganization of the medical staff is under consideration. A selected assistant surgeon has been deputed to Europe and America for special training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and mental deficiency. The course of clinical studies in mental diseases in Medical Colleges and schools has been enlarged and improved. Proposals for

[26th November 1928

the establishment of a home for mental defectives in Madras, the starting of mental clinics and the treatment of borderline cases of mental disorder in the important hospitals are being worked out.

(c) In the Madras Mental Hospital convalescent cases and epileptics are as far as possible separated from acute and chronic cases and lodged in separate blocks. In Calicut, epileptic cases are accommodated in single rooms as far as possible and recovering cases in general wards. There are two padded cells for epileptic cases in the Waltair Mental Hospital. There is considerable room for improvement of the arrangements in all the institutions and this is kept in view in working out proposals for additional buildings.

(d) The delay was due to the Sanitary Engineer not having sufficient outdoor staff to prepare the scheme. Plans and estimates have since been prepared and are under consideration.

(e) The information is furnished below :—

	Daily average strength up to the end of July 1928.	Accommodation available.	Highest number accommodated on any one day.
Europeans ...	150·66	151	151
Indians	690·07	577	698

(f) The differentiation in regard to the extent of accommodation provided in the building for European and Indian patients has been in existence ever since the hospital was instituted, but the additions which have been agreed to or are under contemplation will considerably increase the provision of accommodation for Indian patients.

Public Health

Sinking of wells in Kurnool district.

637 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what arrangements have been made for the district of Kurnool to find out the suitability of sites for sinking wells ;

(b) whether any arrangements have been made with the Industries department to enable presidents of taluk boards to requisition the aid of the boring establishments to find out by test borings if water would be available at the sites pitched upon ;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what those arrangements are ; and

(d) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether the Government will consider the advisability of making suitable arrangements ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information. Under existing orders the health inspectors should inspect all sites selected for the sinking of new wells and should approve of them. Only cases of special difficulty are referred to the District Health Officer.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.